

February 12, 2003

Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20544

RE: CC Docket No. 01-338, Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers

Dear Commissioner Powell:

My husband and I are small business owners in Turlock, CA. We have come to learn that fairness in business is critical in today's environment. We have also learned that our local economy, including that of our business, has grown very reliant on the latest advancements in the telecom industry. Because of this, we are very concerned about the unrest in the telecom industry and how it affects our business.

The decline in the telecom industry has a nationwide impact. We feel it is time the FCC allows for a fair, level playing field for telecom companies to compete; thus, looking out for the interest of small business owners such as ourselves.

It is imperative that the FCC establish a national framework for the telecom sector that will encourage companies to invest in our vital telecommunications infrastructure and allows for long-term sustainable competition.

Current regulations stifle competition and will increase prices for small business, as well as make it difficult and expensive to install telecommunications services that we need for our businesses to prosper. The FCC must end the requirement for unbundled network element platform (UNE-P) and other unbundling requirements, which has devastated investment in the infrastructure.

It is time for the FCC to do all it can to ensure new telecom services are delivered quickly and efficiently. High-speed access to the Internet should not suffer due to incompetent regulations. Unless the FCC acts now to change the regulations around costly unbundling requirements, investments in broadband will continue to decline. Act now to support further investment and deployment of priceless new technologies nationwide.

Sincerely,

Kathy Halsey
Owner
Halsey Construction Company

Cc: Commissioner Abernathy
Commissioner Adelstein
Commissioner Martin
Commissioner Copps